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his own measures the estimates of the mean heights of the continents and islands, given by other investigators, to draw a hypsometric curve, and to deduce the mean level of the solid crust, which he finds to be 2,440 meters below sea level. The paper is full of tables giving much information of the kind mentioned above and will be very useful to those interested in this line of earth science.

HARRY FIELDING REID

A MANUAL OF MAP PROJECTION

C. H. DEETZ AND O. S. ADAMS. **Elements of Map Projection with Applications to Map and Chart Construction.** 163 pp.; maps, diagrs., index. *U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Special Publ. No. 68*, Washington, D. C., 1921. 50 cents. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This is, primarily, a working manual on map projections. Part I deals with the theory involved in representing a curved surface on a plane and explains in simple language the underlying principles of several of the more common projections. Part II deals with the practical construction of these projections and includes detailed instructions as well as the necessary tables, in most cases. The mathematical development of a few of the projections is given for the benefit of those who may wish to see how the formulae are derived; but otherwise the entire book is of an elementary nature and does not require a knowledge of higher mathematics for a full appreciation of its contents.

In Part II the following projections are treated in separate chapters: Polyconic, Bonne, Lambert zenithal equal-area, Lambert conformal conic, Albers conical equal-area, Mercator, and gnomonic. In addition, there is a chapter on world maps where various other projections are treated including the stereographic, Aitoff equal-area, Mollweide homolographic, Goode's homolographic (interrupted), Guyou's doubly periodic, and others. A comparison of several of these projections as regards the amount and location of the maximum distortion shown by illustration in the frontispiece.

The chapter on the polyconic projection includes a discussion of the transverse polyconic projection and the polyconic projection with two standard meridians as used for the International map of the world (tables for the polyconic projection are given in *U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Special Publication No. 5*).

Considerable interest attaches to the chapter on the Lambert conformal conic projection on account of the uses made of this projection during the World War. For a small country like France the projection is an ideal one on which to superimpose a grid or quadrillage system. For larger countries, such as the United States, the distortion of this projection becomes too great for military purposes, and some other projection or device must be used. The solution of this problem for the United States is explained in the chapter entitled "The Grid System of Military Mapping."

In many ways the best projection for a general base map of the United States or other large countries with a predominating east and west dimension, is the Albers conical equal-area projection, on account of the small scale distortion and because of other desirable properties. As explained in the chapter on this projection, it is very easy to construct, requiring only good judgment in the selection of the standard parallels.

Navigators will be especially interested in the chapter on the Mercator projection which includes Mercator tables. Considering the extensive use of this projection for charts, it deserves to be better understood and appreciated than is the case at present. The chapter on the gnomonic projection will also appeal to navigators on account of the special properties of this projection, which make it so useful as an adjunct to certain sailing charts and for charts on which to plot radio-compass bearings.

C. H. SWICK

DANISH RAINFALL MAPS

KURT LEHMANN-TEGEL. **Regenkarten des Königreichs Dänemark.** 26 pp.; maps, diagrs., bibliogr. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1919. M. 6. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Denmark is a small country, but with its irregular coast line, its numerous bays and peninsulas, and its outlying islands it presents, within a limited area, a considerable variety of climatic conditions. The new rainfall maps are based on observations at about 200 stations. The basic period is 1876-1915. Reductions to the uniform period, together with certain interpolations, have been made. The isohyets on the mean annual map are